



Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships

funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan requires oversight, monitoring, assessment, and coordination to succeed. NOAA is contributing to these needs by providing a coordinated network of scientific observations, information for decision makers about the impacts of climate change, and the implementation of adaptive management through the Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) process. These projects will help provide the scientific data, education, and collaboration necessary to sustain this investment in Great Lakes restoration.

Implementing a Great Lakes Observing and Response System

This project will focus on the design and implementation of the Great Lakes Observation and Response System to coordinate and integrate regional coastal observations supporting national and regional priorities including Great Lakes restoration. GLRI funds will be used to support a federal data management and communications system, modeling and decision support tools, and on-water observation system components focused on Areas of Concern and restoration projects.

Coordinating Implementation of Lakewide Management Plans

The GLRI is providing support for an enhanced process of developing and implementing Lakewide Management Plans for each of the five Great Lakes. NOAA is integrating current research and a wide array of products and services in collaboration with other federal agencies, the states, basin communities, and tribal interests to restore and protect the lakes.

Establishing a Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

B-WET is a NOAA environmental education program for K-12 students. It offers competitive grants to support existing education programs, foster the growth of new programs, and encourage development of program partnerships.

Enhancing Climate Change Information and Creating Resilient Communities

The goal of addressing climate adaptation and mitigation is important to NOAA, and NOAA is working to create an informed society that is anticipating and able to respond to climate change and its impacts. NOAA's efforts in the Great Lakes focus on the collection of baseline climate data, increasing the understanding of climate change impacts, and customizing adaptation strategies within Great Lakes communities to enable informed decisions throughout the basin.

This includes:

- Extending existing regional climate models, creating a larger set of possible climatic outcomes, and broadening current models to include 3-D visualization and ice cover.
- Working with regional and state partner organizations to develop and implement a community-focused approach to assessing and managing the impacts of climate change.

Partner organizations include Sea Grant, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Coastal Zone Management programs, the American Planning Association, Resources for the Future, universities, and tribal colleges.

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